

part of the process....

Volume 1, Issue 4 if you're not part of the problem,
you're not part of the process... March, 1978

LESBIANISM AT IWY

Having read the Sunday morning headlines from the Houston conference, "Women Pass Lesbian and Abortion Rights" and "Support of Lesbian Rights Overwhelmingly Approved," one would have thought that IWY was about these issues only. While this was not the case, as the last issue of part of the process reported, the controversial issue of gay rights did, from the start, generate much activity. With the encouragement of Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force, and later of the National Commission, lesbians across the country fought to get resolutions on sexual preference through their state conferences. Resolutions must come from a minimum of 15 states in order to be included in the National Plan, and by September '77, 34 states had passed sexual preference resolutions, ensuring our inclusion. From September until the conference in November, time was spent lobbying delegates, assessing support and developing anxiety.

URGENT! PROVIDENCE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE CALLED TO VOTE

Responding to the demands of R.I. Working Women at their press conference of 3/6, Vincent Cirelli, chair of the City Council Ordinance Committee, announced that the committee will meet on Wed., March 22nd at 7:00 pm in City Hall. At that time, the ordinance will be voted upon! It has been four months since the Ordinance Committee has seen and heard the gay community demand basic human rights. Our presence is again necessary at this meeting to remind the councilors that the gay community is here, strong, and not to be ignored. Come with your friends to this meeting; please bring prepared testimony with you in case individuals or groups can be heard.
THIS IS ESSENTIAL! See you there....

Thursday night, November 17, was the first lesbian caucus. Hundreds of women - delegates and non-delegates, all dedicated to the passage of gay rights - jammed into Houston's MCC. It was on this night, amid all the excitement and energy, that I began to believe that passage was possible. Also that same night was the lesbian delegate caucus. As we got down to business, the first signs of conflict within the group surfaced. The chairpersons had made an arbitrary decision to conduct the meeting according to parliamentary procedure. Women objecting to this were silenced by parliamentary rules! Finally a vote was taken in which it was decided to adopt a meeting structure and give everyone an equal voice. The conflict continued as women who had been working for months coordinating efforts nationally presented their strategy for action at the conference. The rest of us, involved at the state level and at the conference, were



-Alix

annoyed by what seemed to be plans made without the input of all the lesbian delegates. During the lengthy discussion that followed, tempers flared and some women left, angry and disgusted. The meeting was adjourned without resolution. Before the next caucus, much communication was to go on between individuals, resulting in equal participation in the meetings to come.

The basic goals of the ensuing caucuses were to decide what their strategies should be and what actions would most effectively gain support for lesbian rights. The women present were of many different minds, but the immense task ahead would demand them all. The National Gay Task Force called press conferences and operated an exhibit booth at the convention center. Lesbians, Houston's lesbian organization, offered a hospitality suite, information and housing. Non-delegate observers made signs, distributed leaflets and made the lesbian presence felt at all activities. Delegates lobbied, found speakers and distributed orange armbands as a demonstration of delegate support.

As voting time approached, the tension rose. The delegates' floor plan was to get pro-speakers at all the microphones. Among those speaking were Betty Friedan and Ellie Smeal. Our strategy called for floor debate to collect as many last minute votes as possible. Non-delegates began arriving and filling the stands throughout the arena, while some women held a candlelight vigil outside.

Cheering greeted the announcement of Resolution #24, which Jean O'Leary presented for consideration. It went as follows:

Congress, state and local legislators should enact legislation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual and affectional preferences in areas including, but not limited to, employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, public facilities, government funding, and the military.

State legislators should reform their penal codes or repeal state laws that restrict private sexual behavior between consenting adults.

State legislators should enact legislation that would prohibit consideration of sexual or affectional orientation as a factor in any judicial determination

of child custody or visitation rights. Rather, child custody cases should be evaluated solely on the merits of which party is the better parent, without regard to that person's sexual or affectional orientation.

At the chair's call to debate, only pro-speakers came forward - delegate strategy had worked, and for the first time non-lesbian delegate support was visible and even abundant. In an effort to maintain a democratic debate, the chair called specifically for anti-speakers to address the caucus. Arguments against the resolution ranged from moral indignation toward homosexuality because it is against the law of God, to political objections on the grounds that passage would hinder women's rights activists in gaining ERA passage in unratified states. Speaking in favor of the resolution, Betty Friedan urged Middle-American, married women to support their lesbian sisters. "I know you know," she declared, "that there is nothing in the ERA that will give rights to gays. It is time now for us to support our lesbian sisters in their struggle for rights."

A brief comparison of the speakers showed those in favor of the resolution to be articulate and effective, while those against it appeared disorganized and meek. As the debate continued, the anti-delegates attempted to divide the resolution into 2 and 3 parts; however, this division was voted down by the delegate body and the resolution remained intact. As time for the final vote arrived, gay women on the floor and in the stands held their breath. A proverbial hush fell over the crowd. Those in favor were asked to rise, and an overwhelming majority did so, accompanied by the cheers of observers. Those rising against passage were greeted with boos and thumbs down. THE RESOLUTION HAD PASSED! Ecstatic cheering and celebration followed, drowning out the chair's incessant calls to order. In protest, those against the resolution rose, turned their backs to the chair, and began to pray. After several minutes, one of the lesbian delegates was able to persuade the crowd to calm down so that they could continue with the final resolutions, most importantly those concerning the needs of welfare women. The excitement of the moment was passing - the auditorium grew quiet as the caucus prepared to resume the proceedings.

Unfortunately, however, the joy of the passage was marred by the exodus of hundreds of lesbian observers from the stands. Lesbian and non-lesbian delegates alike were painfully aware of their exit with only 3 resolutions yet to be voted on, and with the welfare women's contingent in need of support. Interpreting the departure as a statement of non-support for the remaining resolutions, delegates were angry and hurt. It was evident that many gay women, while seeking support from the women's movement, were not ready to reciprocate and support feminist issues. This lack of awareness and concern dampened the "we are all in it together" atmosphere that lesbian delegates had worked so hard to achieve.

Reactions to the passage of the sexual preference resolution were varied. The media insisted on terming it "lesbian" rather than "gay" (i.e., including both men and women) rights. Opponents of the women's movement proclaimed that "by this decision the women's movement had killed itself. Moral, patriotic people of the US will now see the movement for what it is and refuse support." Bemoaning its passage on the grounds that it would hinder the fight for ERA, etc. were a minority of women's rights advocates. In an interview the morning after, Gloria Steinham expressed the sentiments of the majority of delegates, saying that "The women's movement, with its passage of the sexual preference resolution, has finally come of age."

Support of lesbian rights by the National Women's Conference has been not only an affirmation of my political right to equality under the law, but also a positive reinforcement of my personal lifestyle and happiness therein. IWY 1977 broke the barriers to up-front lesbian participation in the women's movement. Although the struggle continues, IWY provided a lever with which to work - and for that I am grateful.

-Jean



Because I love you
I can accept your
faults.



Because I love you
I can understand
your insecurities.



Because I love you
I can tolerate your
confusion, indecision,
fear...

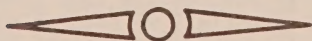


I love you, too.



Look, if you're
gonna get physical
about it, this relationship
is over.

done with
4/12/77



A YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

Last year at this time I met with a group of people in a series of meetings to share the common feeling of oppression we experienced as gays in Rhode Island. Although we hardly knew one another, we had all read the same articles that told about the harassment of gays and the setbacks in the struggle for women's rights. We held in common not our jobs or neighborhoods, but our concern for Dade County. As members of an oppressed minority, we knew that our feelings of alienation stemmed from two inextricably linked forces, sexism and the heterosexual assumption. Our discussions focused on ways we might turn the engulfing tide generated by a hostile culture. We developed the concept of a gay community service. Within three months, a downtown Providence office at 55 Eddy Street became what is now Gay Community Services of Rhode Island.

GCS-RI is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for gay Rhode Islanders. Within this goal a dual focus is maintained: the organization promotes cohesion among gay and feminist groups, and it offers the community at large a positive stance on human rights. GCS-RI is committed, in its activities, to assessing the needs of the gay community, acting on the assessment of those needs, providing an information and referral service, and expanding legal, health care and social service resources for gays. GCS-RI also works toward the elimination of stereotypes and social tensions created by misinformation. This warrants a vast educational campaign. We have discovered that our activities are best conducted through a collective structure where members determine their own level of involvement to accomplish the tasks for which they are best suited.

What has GCS-RI done so far? The Gay Help Line was our first priority. It has been staffed every night (except three) in the past ten months including Christmas and New Year's Eve. The Help Line is a direct service to gays who are isolated, in crisis, or simply needing information. In one case, the program channeled calls from gay victims of controversial police arrests to the people and agencies who stopped this unfair practice. As the first GCS project, the

Help Line is an essential communications network.

Other activities began last June when GCS-RI organized gay attendance at IWY and mobilized the gay vote for feminist resolutions. When the Falcon Motorcycle Club of gay men stood up in a vote for the ERA, the IWY committee learned the value of gay support. Lesbians saw the benefit of aligning with gay men to achieve common goals. In July, GCS sponsored a workshop in preparation for upcoming public hearings and the City Council vote on the Providence Anti-discrimination Ordinance. GCS has offered its space to other gay organizations such as the Lesbian Feminist Union and the Gay Political Caucus. A series of rap groups have continued since the summer. At the request of outside community groups, GCS-RI has done several speaking engagements, and a formal Speakers Bureau is now being formed.

As part of the broader activity on human rights issues, GCS-RI began coalition building, an IWY legacy. We joined with such groups as the Portuguese Workers Association in sponsoring the Providence Bakke demonstration. The public hearing testimony prepared by GCS for the Action Alert Alliance won endorsement from twelve groups representing a combined membership of 15,000. These involvements assured wide support for the sexual orientation clause in the city's proposed ordinance.

One lesson GCS-RI learned from these activities is that as a non-profit organization a steady source of funding is necessary. We have been supported by individual contributions and fund-raising events. Since May of 1977 \$1,024 have been received: \$576 from private donations and \$478 from events. Our expenses are minimal. The office rent is \$60/mo., phone bills from \$40-\$50/mo. and electricity is about \$12.50 per month. All of our office supplies have been donated. However, we have found ourselves in a serious financial bind. To accomplish the great deal of work necessary to be effective, we now realize that financial backing is essential; we need an expanded base of individual contributions and regular fund-raising. Coffeehouses, films and a spaghetti supper will aid in meeting expenses. Still, WE NEED DONATIONS!

Consider sending a check or money order to GCS-RI, 55 Eddy St., Providence. Any amount will help. Our list of contributors is confidential.

Where is GCS-RI going from here? We will soon be incorporating, and hope to have a bulk mailing postal permit. A Youth Service Directory is a priority project to aid the Help Line. We are looking for an automatic call answering device so that messages can be left for staff. Other immediate goals include: a film series, monthly meetings with a program of speakers, and the development of counseling resources. GCS-RI responds to the ideas and interests of those participating. Your input can determine our future. In spite of all that has been accomplished, we see that we are only just beginning. GCS-RI is in the process of becoming an established organization which maintains the visibility and credibility of gays in this state, while meeting the needs of its community.

-an original founder

Q: What's your favorite kind of bean?

A: A les-bean.

THE POLITICS OF GAY RIGHTS

The Ordinance Committee of the Providence City Council has had before it for some time now a comprehensive Anti-discrimination Ordinance. By authority of the City's Human Relations Commission this ordinance would bar discrimination against gays. Gays in the city, understandably skeptical of the passage of the phrase on sexual orientation, have launched major efforts for our voices to be heard and to insure that our rights be included in the new legislation. We have shown our strength at the Gay Rights Rally in November and at the public hearing on the ordinance that same month. We have managed to garner support from women's, black, religious, and civil rights groups who urge passage of the ord-

inance with rights for gays included. We have written city councilors and delivered an open letter to Jimmy Carter at his recent visit demanding that our government leaders acknowledge our presence and take steps to guarantee us basic human rights. Where have these efforts gotten us?

For awhile, especially after the public hearing where some thirty groups and individuals testified on behalf of the ordinance and the sexual orientation phrase, it appeared that a victory for gays in Providence was forthcoming. Quite possibly, if the Ordinance Committee had voted the measure out of committee in December, the impact of the hearing, letter writing, and coalition building would have assured passage of the entire ordinance. But that did not happen. The Ordinance Committee has responded very slowly to our voices. Vincent Cirelli, the chair, says more time is needed for the committee to hear opposition.

To the gay community, Cirelli's rationale for waiting makes no sense and is outright dangerous. The opposition had their chance to be heard at the public hearing. It seems more likely that the committee did not want to pass the ordinance with inclusion of the sexual orientation phrase but could not reasonably defeat it after the overwhelming testimony in support of gay rights. Hence, the committee has been stalling, giving those opposed to gay rights a chance to speak. This tactic provides the committee with reason to consider the defeat of the sexual orientation phrase.

Not all of the seven committee members are against providing gays basic protection against discrimination. John Garan from Ward 10 has shown full support and has been the key person to defend and debate for us in city council politics. Garan is also considering candidacy for the Mayorship this election year. A voice just as strong as his but opposed to gay rights is that of Tom Pearlman, Ward 2. The remaining five committee members are probably going to follow the vote of the chair. Cirelli definitely opposes any provisions for gays in the anti-discrimination ordinance. He bases this on his belief that if the ordinance is approved by the full council and the Mayor (who says he does not like the sexual orientation clause but would go along with it if it reaches his desk), it would be

rejected by voters in a public referendum. Yet no referendum is mandated by the passage of the ordinance. Cirelli clearly does not want to vote in favor of a controversial measure and threaten his seat on the council. Considering Chair Cirelli's position on the sexual orientation phrase, it seems unlikely that our rights will be included in the ordinance.

Recent developments with the State Anti-discrimination Ordinance complicate not only provisions for gay rights but passage of the ordinance in Providence as well. State Human Relations Commissioner Rita Michaelson is urging the defeat of the entire city ordinance because she fears the State Commission will lose money if their services are duplicated. Her fears are totally unfounded, says John Gaffney of both the Providence Human Relations Commission and the Gay Political Caucus. He states that there are enough cases in the city and the state for both agencies to investigate and prosecute discrimination charges. Gaffney also says that the State Commission would not suffer any loss of funding from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency's federal "parent". Michaelson appears to be talking through her hat.

Many of the other groups whose members would be included under the terms of the proposed ordinance are concerned that it may be defeated entirely. We hope non-gay groups will not perceive us as a jeopardy to passage of the measure; the danger the ordinance is in at present should not be blamed on gays, but on political jockeying.

It is essential that the gay community continue to show support for the entire ordinance by communicating with our city councilors. Letter writing, phone calling, and attendance at the two upcoming public meetings is vital (our stalwart opponent Vincent Cirelli can be reached at 11 Leah St., Prov., 02908, phone 831-9555). On Thursday, March 16th at 7:30 pm in the Alderman's Chambers, City Hall, the Prov. Human Relations Commission has invited the Ordinance Committee members to a public meeting specifically concerned with the progress of the ordinance. And as we go to press, it has been announced that the Ordinance Committee will call the resolution to vote on Wednesday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm, City Hall. The announcement came after a press conference on March 6th held by R.I. Working Women, where they, the ACLU,

R.I. Council of Churches, Gay Political Caucus, and others demanded the passage of the ordinance. We can, by our attendance and testimonies, be living proof that the citizens of Providence want this ordinance passed. Our presence is necessary to maintain pressure and impact on the committee members and the full City Council.

People interested in further involvement can contact the Gay Political Caucus, evenings - 751-3322.

-L.B.

GAY RIGHTS PACKET AVAILABLE

The Gay Political Caucus has put together an educational packet to be distributed to city and state legislators and opinion leaders. The packet includes one page fact sheets on gays and ... children, psychiatry, the law, and the church. As well, one fact sheet is about gays ourselves. Endorsements from local, national, and foreign groups, and a list of cities where gays are protected by law are also included. Some of this is material compiled by the RIGPC, while some is printed under the auspices of the Natl. Gay Task Force.

The packet is in part a response to an effort by the Voter's Alert Alliance - they recently distributed to state legislators a gem of publishing ingenuity, "The So-called Human Rights Coloring Book". The Alliance is a mysterious, as yet anonymous group, and their document portrays gays in a stereotypic, emotionally stirring, hideously deplorable manner.

In contrast, the Caucus' packet aims to educate people based on facts rather than imagination; state leaders are presented with a positive image of gays. About 450 packets are being printed. The Caucus would appreciate donations to cover the cost of printing and distribution. Send inquiries and donations to RIGPC, 55 Eddy St., Providence.

note: Doorwar Bookstore on Thayer St. in Providence is selling the Gay Rights Packet for RIGPC so pick one up if you're close to them.

And now, a contribution from an ex-Rhode Islander still reading us in her new residence, California...

THE BALLAD OF JOANIE DYKE
(Sung to any traditional tune that fits)

Come all you young lesbians, the story I will tell
Of the war of liberation, I remember oh so well;
Twas in the year of eighty-five, when I was just a girl
That we sent out our battle-cry, "It's time to change the world!"

Word quickly spread throughout the world, the time had now begun
For us to stand united, all women now as one,
Of every race and nation, of every class and age:
"Our history books are boring, it's time to turn the page!"

I was only seventeen, that year I first came out;
It didn't take me long to learn what this was all about.
I quickly joined my sisters in preparing for the fight,
And the leader of our local group, we called her Joanie Dyke.

Oh she was brave, and she was strong, our group did all agree;
To me she seemed as beautiful as any dyke could be.
But Joanie had a lover, I knew right from the start;
Because they were monogamous, I had a broken heart.

Well, soon we were in contact with dykes in every land,
We made our plans together, prepared to make a stand,
To infiltrate the media, the army and the banks;
We knew we soon would take control, and win our sisters' thanks.

The day before we were to rise, to take our woman-power
I overheard a traitor tell the pigs the very hour
That we would strike, and we would move to end the rule of men;
She told our names, and all our plans, our hideouts and our friends.

I shaved my legs, put on a skirt, wore makeup and a smile;
With phony papers and high heels, I went to make a trial.
I said, "This is my sister, she's certified insane."
First I smiled, then I cried, and then I smiled again.

They put her in my custody, let me take her away.
And they paid no attention to what she'd had to say.
But I was sick with sorrow at gaining what I sought,
For Joanie Dyke's true lover was the traitor I had caught.

Next day the revolution rose with the morning sun;
We came out in our power, and as you know, we won.
It was a bitter struggle, and a bitter victory,
For many died in battle in the cause of liberty.

And when it was all over, and every battle won,
Though we were filled with hope and joy at what we had just done,
Our joy was mixed with sorrow, our hearts could not be light,
For among our murdered sisters was our leader, Joanie Dyke.

For with her poor heart broken, to battle did she go,
So bravely but so carelessly, and never lived to know
The end of the struggle that set her sisters free;
And so remember Joanie Dyke, who died for liberty.

review...

* THE JOY OF LESBIAN SEX or "what do they really do?"

Finally, it's happened! Having come out of the closets, gay sexuality has become a commercial enterprise. Mitchell Beazley, Ltd., the company which gave The Joy of Sex to needy heterosexuals, now offers gay readers The Joy of Gay Sex and The Joy of Lesbian Sex. The emergence of these two volumes leads gay buyers to believe that at last our sexuality is being treated as a viable alternative to heterosexuality.

Despite the lack of blessing from The Joy of Sex's editor and authors, The Joy of Lesbian Sex's Acknowledgement cites as references prestigious sources from the feminist and gay movements. Moreover, the two female authors extol the wonders of women loving women in their glowing introduction. The readers' expectations concerning the book's credibility are thus heightened. Nonetheless, it seems to be all downhill from that point.

JOLS's format is the same as that of its straight predecessor: alphabetical arrangement of the terminology, with description and advice on each subject category. There are interesting and somewhat informative sections on female anatomy and functions, but the comparable chapters of Our Bodies, Our Selves do a more thorough job. The greater portion of the text is divided into ludicrously simplistic categories (e.g., beds, boots- a lesbian must-horniness, romance, etc.). I was unaware that "fewer and fewer lesbians own beds with head and footboards...". One need only skim passages on big toes, mirrors, dykes and the exotic "la plume de ma tante" or "little death" for a taste of the absurd hilarity. Much of this is great for chuckles, but there is an infuriating side to it as well.

Instead of being a sensitive publication which dispenses with age-old stereotypes, the book actually promotes them. Some of the myths the authors reinforce include: frigidity is a complaint literally unheard of among lesbians, and gay women almost always achieve orgasm in the course of love-making. Under the heading "Promiscuity" we discover that "lesbians on the whole seem to be more intent upon forming relationships than on having sex for sex's sake". Furthermore, the book is dotted with a vocabulary used almost exclusively by male pornography writers; I see no reason for such usage in a work purportedly designed for women. Perhaps the book is really intended for the curious male/straight public.

For those who are anticipating a tremendous breakthrough in the important publishing medium, a word of warning should be issued. Books of this nature are written for the mass market; it is obvious from the tone and content of JOLS just who that market is. It certainly isn't us.

Don't buy this book; borrow it for a good laugh.

-Jude Whitcomb





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THE NEW! SKILLS EXCHANGE COLUMN

Once upon a time, we envisioned our future as lesbian women living, sharing and learning together. Five of us were working on a women's studies project for which we were to develop images and fantasies of what we could realize as feminists in our lifetimes.

It was at Leslie's unheated and secluded cottage by the sea one late November weekend where we merged our fanciful and more practical visions. Trying to leave behind our fears that Men and/or Technology would control the destiny of our planet, we five women discussed how we could gain more personal and collective power, knowledge and skill. We were concerned with the growth and strengths of women as individuals and as a community and with our condition in the "real" world. We realized that competition with men or with one another was not necessary for learning, nor did it seem necessary to always learn in the traditional way. In fact, many lesbians we knew had felt frustration and uneasiness working with and/or learning from men. Discussing our own strengths and abilities we realized that we didn't always need to turn to men for help or advice.

Yes, there are women who are knowledgeable and skilled in things we want to discover or progress in.

Why not learn what we can and share with one another?

From this evolved a concept which we came to call the Skills Exchange. In our project the exchange was designed as a vehicle for women to benefit from and contribute to a women's community. Learning health and healing skills like self-help, massage, karate and herbology from one another can be a growth process, a spiritual and physical strengthening of ourselves. Survival skills such as plumbing, carpentry, electrical wiring, printing, alternative energy uses and automechanics can help us in becoming self-reliant. Sharing our knowledge of communication skills and creative arts; writing, music, art, graphic design, dance, ceramics, weaving, we can create together a women's culture.

In glimpses of and brief communications with one another at meetings and social events, the wide diversity of interests and abilities of Rhode Island lesbians is apparent. We at part of the process have started in this issue a NEW monthly Skills Exchange column for the Rhode Island women's community. If you have a particular interest or skill to share - and this means anything from anthropology, bike repair, carpentry, drawing, electricity, math, music, research, sociology, writing weaving, and even zoology, simply fill out the form and send it to us. Women who are seeking specific skills should do the same. Perhaps this is a way to discover how rich we are and share our wealth.

Put me in the NEW! Skills Exchange Column
in part of the process

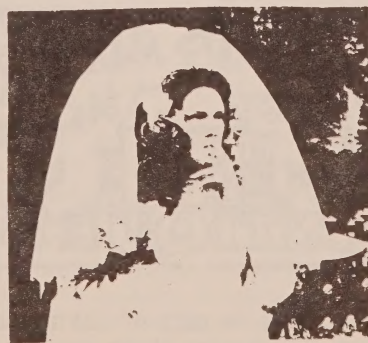
name or alias.....

way to contact you
(address, phone, box #).....

Skills to share (comments also):

Skills sought:

mail to part of the process, c/o Sarah
Doyle Center, Box 1829, Brown U., Prov.,
02912. Offer good only in U.S. and Aust.



Just A Joke!

don't buy this book*

OUR RIGHT TO LOVE

A Lesbian Resource Book

produced in cooperation with women of the National Gay Task Force
Editor: GINNY VIDA Media Director, NGTF

(just published, late-February, by Prentice-Hall)

Here is the first authoritative, comprehensive resource guide on lesbianism ever written.

Reflecting a growing awareness of the special concerns of lesbians, this ambitious project embodies the spirit of the basic human rights issues of *all* women and presents an explosive, stimulating exploration of the nature and scope of lesbian life-styles. *Our Right To Love* succeeds in erasing the myths, the stereotypes, and the misjudgements concerning female homosexuality. It overcomes the misconceptions that have surrounded lesbians for decades by drawing on the candor, sensitivity, talents, and extraordinary skills of women from across the country.

Including information dealing with counseling, health services, bookstores, finding or starting lesbian organizations, meeting other women, and much more—legal issues, parenthood for lesbians, sexual experiences, religious encounters, personal testimonies from lesbians of every race, professional background, and economic class—*Our Right To Love* provides new perspectives on lesbianism and the far-reaching implications affecting *all* women.



...at your local (or distant) bookstore. It's \$12.95 there, but you can buy it for only \$10.95 in a special offer by Lesbian Feminist Union and part of the process. We've purchased in quantity to save you some money, and make some for us. THIS BOOK IS EXCELLENT - order by sending your name and phone number to part of the process, c/o Sarah Doyle Center, Box 1829, Brown U., Providence, 02912. They're already on the way, and we'll order more as necessary.



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calendar

Spring may come a little late this year, but you would hardly know it judging by all the activities scheduled for the next 4 - 6 weeks. Be social, be political, and ATTEND!

MARCH

- 16 Thursday *Human Relations Committee of Providence has invited City Council Ordinance Committee members to discuss Anti-discrim. Ordinance. 7:30 pm, Alderman's Chambers, City Hall. Open to public, gay presence important!
 *Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) meets. 7:30 pm, Sarah Doyle Center, 186 Meeting St., Prov. Everyone needed!
- 20 Monday *Lesbian Feminist Union (LFU) meets at 7:30 pm, 55 Eddy St., Prov.
- 21 Tuesday *Women wishing to enjoy hiking and/or camping with other women invited to plan trips/hikes/etc. with others so-inclined. This will be a short meeting to get the ball rolling and find others who share your interests. 7 pm, Sarah Doyle Center, 186 Meeting St., Prov.
 *Interested in communicating your hopes and dreams for a Womens Restaurant in Providence? Share your thoughts (or plans!) with others. 7:30 pm, Sarah Doyle Center, 186 Meeting St., Prov.
- 22 Wednesday *Providence City Council Ordinance Committee votes on Anti-discrimination Ordinance!!!! Be there to help ensure the inclusion of gay rights. 7 pm, City Hall. Be there with your support for the entire ordinance!
- 24 Friday *Coffeehouse. Sponsored by Gay Community Services. Local performers, food, beverages, good times. 9 pm - 12 am, Big Mother, Faunce House, Brown U. Proceeds benefit GCS - fun time guaranteed!
- 26 Sunday *Fourth Sunday Pot Luck Dinner (even though it's Easter). Join Gay Women of Brown and RI in masticating exercise. 7 pm, Sarah Doyle.

APRIL

- 1 & 2 *Eastern Regional Lesbian Conference, New York City. Events are at Hunter College, write or call Lesbian Feminist Liberation at 243 W. 20th St., NYC, 10011 (212) 691-5460. Lots of Rhode Islanders will be going.
- 7 Friday *GCS First Friday Program. Bruce Voeller, past co-director of National Gay Task Force speaks at Rhode Island College. Details will be publicized.
- 9 Sunday *Gay Women of RI meets, 7 pm, Sarah Doyle Center.
- 12th - 16th *Women's Festival, Brown University!! Entertainment (coffeehouse, music for/by women, dance - see below) and workshops. Write or call Sarah Doyle Center 863-2189, Box 1829 Brown, for scheduling. Community women welcome.
- 15 Saturday *Women's Dance (see above). Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall, Brown (across the street from Sarah Doyle Center). 8 pm - 1 am.
- 16 Sunday *Spaghetti Supper - Benefit GCS-RI. 1 - 5 pm, Marti's Lounge, 174 Railroad Street, Central Falls. ALL YOU CAN EAT! - spaghetti, salad, rolls (heavenly tomato sauce) - \$3.00. Tickets must be purchased in advance, either at Marti's or by calling GCS Helpline 751-3322 to make reservation.
- 22 Saturday *Gay Disco sponsored by Brown-RISD Gay Students Association. Free admittance, community women most welcome. 9 pm - 1 am, Pembroke Field House, corner Brook & Cushing Streets, Providence.
- 23 Sunday *Another Fourth Sunday, another GWRI/GWB Pot Luck Supper. 7 pm, SDC.

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Nov. 1, 1977

Dear Marge Ragona -

While I was back east as a member of the Hartford church I remembered seeing a booklet written by you on sexism. I would very much like to obtain a copy of the booklet as soon as I can. I realize there is a cost involved so if you would inform me of the cost I'll send a check right out to you. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
David Treadwell

Treadwell
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